

§ 203.68

30 CFR Ch. II (7–1–07 Edition)

§ 203.68 What pre-application costs will MMS consider in determining economic viability?

(a) We will not consider ineligible costs as set forth in § 203.89(h) in deter-

mining economic viability for purposes of royalty relief.

(b) We will consider sunk costs according to the following table.

We will	When determining
(1) Include sunk costs	Whether a field that includes a pre-Act lease which has not produced, other than test production, before the application or redetermination submission date needs relief to become economic.
(2) Not include sunk costs	Whether an authorized field, a development project, or an expansion project can become economic with full relief (see § 203.67).
(3) Not include sunk costs	How much suspension volume is necessary to make the field, a development project, or an expansion project economic (see § 203.69(c)).
(4) Include sunk costs for the project discovery well on each lease.	Whether a development project or an expansion project needs relief to become economic.

[63 FR 2618, Jan. 16, 1998, as amended at 67 FR 1876, Jan. 15, 2002]

§ 203.69 If my application is approved, what royalty relief will I receive?

If we approve your application, subject to certain conditions, we will not collect royalties on a specified suspension volume for your field, development project, or expansion project. Suspension volumes include volumes allocated to a lease under an approved unit agreement, but exclude any volumes of production that are not normally royalty-bearing under the lease or the regulations of this chapter (e.g., fuel gas).

(a) For authorized fields, the minimum royalty-suspension volumes are:

(1) 17.5 million barrels of oil equivalent (MMBOE) for fields in 200 to 400 meters of water;

(2) 52.5 MMBOE for fields in 400 to 800 meters of water; and

(3) 87.5 MMBOE for fields in more than 800 meters of water.

(b) For development projects, any relief we grant applies only to project wells and replaces the royalty suspension volume with which we issued your lease. If your project is economic given the royalty suspension volume with which we issued your lease, we will reject the application. Otherwise, the *minimum* royalty suspension volumes are as shown in the following table:

For	The minimum royalty suspension volume is	Plus
(1) RS leases	A volume equal to the combined royalty suspension volumes (or the volume equivalent based on the data in your approved application for other forms of royalty suspension) with which we issued the leases participating in the application that have or plan a well into a reservoir identified in the application.	10 percent of the median of the distribution of known recoverable resources upon which we based approval of your application from all reservoirs included in the project.
(2) Other deep water leases issued in sales after November 28, 2000.	A volume equal to 10 percent of the median of the distribution of known recoverable resources upon which we based approval of your application from all reservoirs included in the project.	

(c) If your application includes pre-Act or eligible leases in different categories of water depth, we apply the minimum royalty suspension volume for the deepest such lease then assigned to the field. We base the water depth and makeup of a field on the water-depth delineations in the “Lease Terms and Economic Conditions” map

and the “Field Names Master List” documents and updates in effect at the time your application is deemed complete. These publications are available from the MMS Regional Office for the GOM.

(d) You will get a royalty suspension volume above the minimum if we determine that you need more to make